

South Dakota Council on Developmental Disabilities
Minutes of Meeting – July 19, 2007

The SD Council on Developmental Disabilities met on July 19, 2007 via DDN sites in Pierre, Redfield, Sioux Falls, Spearfish, Vermillion, and Watertown.

Members Present

Travis Arneson	Ann Larsen
Charlotte Athey	Brooke Lusk
Sarah Carda	Renetta Marlow for Wanda Seiler
Vikki Day	David Nissen
Shannon Dirk	Judy Struck
Dee Gustaf	Kayla Tinker
Jason Harris	Isabel Trobaugh
Dillon Haug	Lex Werdel
Robert Kean	Ted Williams
Grady Kickul	

Members not Present

Erik Brubakken	Kati Seymour
Pat Monson	Georgene Short Bull

Others Present

Emily Gustaf	Gina Pfeifle
Beth Henrichsen	Pat Schaffer
Arlene Poncelet	

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Chairperson David Nissen called the meeting to order and read the Council's mission statement. Introductions were completed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Robert Kean moved, seconded by Charlotte Athey to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held April 19-20, 2007. Motion carried.

Travis Arneson moved, seconded by Grady Kickul to approve the Executive Committee Reports from April 19, 2007 and June 27, 2007. Motion carried.

Lex Werdel moved, seconded by Judy Struck to ratify the actions taken by the Executive Committee on June 27, 2007. Motion carried.

- Approved \$2,500 of federal funds for SD RehabAction Fall Conference
- Approved \$3,000 of federal funds for Road to Freedom Bus Tour Approved
- Approved \$1,000 of federal funds for the Larsen Free Family Autism Camp; They had originally asked for \$500, but called right before Exec meeting feeling a little overwhelmed, and asked for \$500 more. Arlene is working with the family to determine how those extra funds are going to be spent.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

All dollars available for projects from FFY06 & FFY07 have been obligated. FFY2008 funds are part of the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill which is being debated in Congress. The House version of the budget includes an increase for DD councils nationwide.

Shannon Dirk from Vale is a new council member. She is a parent of a child with a disability. Shannon is replacing Michael McRoden, who resigned. Welcome, Shannon!

Isabel Trobaugh, David Nissen, Travis Arneson, and Georgene Short Bull were reappointed for another year. This will be the last term for each of them. Election of officers for all Executive Committee members will be conducted at the next meeting.

Arlene met with the dental workgroup on dental issues for people with disabilities. They have a group of 5-6 dentists who are planning a training for dentists at the state dental meeting in May, 2008. They are looking for volunteers to give a disability perspective. Arlene invited Council members to participate in developing the curriculum for this training. The meetings will be held via teleconference.

Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) had a late start on year 1 of the Mobilizing for Self-Advocacy in South Dakota project. There were \$5,120 of unspent federal funds and they have requested to carry this over to year 2. These funds would be used to increase the funds available for local projects and to travel to SD one additional time to provide on-site technical assistance. HSRI has hired Julie Petty to help the SD teams work on their projects. They had a teleconference last week to talk about their projects. Three of the four local committees have selected transportation and the 4th is looking at employment issues. Robert Kean moved, seconded by Charlotte Athey to allow HSRI to carry over the \$5,120 of federal funds from year 1 to year 2. Motion carried.

Arlene is going to be attending an Exec Director's Retreat in September. There were 35 states in attendance at the last one. This will be the third year of the retreat, and Arlene's first.

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities Fall Conference will be held October 9-10 in San Diego, CA. Funding is put in the budget for one or two council members to attend this conference. Let Arlene know if you are interested in attending.

The state's FY09 budget is in process. Arlene has been asked to submit any changes to the Council's budget by tomorrow (7/20/07). Arlene will be talking with Wanda about the contractual area that includes personnel costs for the Council. In the past, the contractual area has only increased by the inflationary rate and not the actual salary increase provided by the Council. If needed, an increase in the contractual area will be pursued to cover the approved salary increase for Council staff.

DD NETWORK RETREAT

The DD Network Retreat was held June 12-13, 2007 in Chamberlain. About 50 board members and staff from SD Advocacy Services (SDAS), the Council and Center for Disabilities were in attendance. Jim Keller facilitated the discussion. We are currently awaiting the final report. Arlene asked other Council members who attended to share their comments.

Robert Kean stated that the retreat was very positive, and he appreciated the opportunity. The retreat gave everyone a sense of the scope of the DD Network. SDAS will be factoring the Retreat information into goals and objective statements. Robert mentioned that this is a ground breaking event, as many DD networks nationwide don't even communicate with each other.

Judy Struck echoed what Robert said regarding the retreat. The Center for Disabilities plans to use the Retreat information in their goals and objectives.

Lex Werdel shared that she thought Jim's stories about his work with other groups were very interesting. There are so many employers who are short staffed, and the developmental disabilities population has a large group of people that need employment. How can we work together to get the employers to hire people with developmental disabilities?

David Nissen stated that it was good to refresh everyone's understanding of the DD Network and how they collaborate and work together. He appreciates the collaboration of all 3 agencies.

2007-2011 STATE PLAN

Arlene opened the floor to suggestions from Council members. Due to the amendment needing to be submitted by August 15, information from the DD Network Retreat will probably impact the 2008 amendment.

Travis suggested an action goal under 7.1 (Transportation). By 2011, the Council will work on a transportation project in a minimum of two communities or areas of the state.

Judy asked why there are no dollars in the child care services. Arlene explained that there were currently no projects planned for in this area. If someone brings forward a proposal, the Council could shift dollars to fund it.

Travis had a question regarding 10.2 and the 750 legislators/public policymakers. This number seems high for legislators. Where does the rest come from? Arlene said the number is high because it also includes local policymakers such as city, schools, county, state agency and provider policymakers.

Travis suggested a specific goal related to the DD Network under Goal 10, Cross-Cutting. By 2011, the Council will work with DD Network partners (SD Advocacy

Services and the Center for Disabilities) to develop and implement a plan of action for collaborative activities. This will be added as 10.4.

Grady Kickul moved, seconded by Travis Arneson to add objectives 7.2 and 10.4 and approve the budget as proposed. Motion carried.

FUTURE REQUESTS FOR FUNDING (RFF)

The Partners in Policymaking request is for \$100,000. Arlene wants members to know that it is less than last year because they had the evaluation in last year's request. This will come out of FY08 dollars. Robert Kean updated the Council that he has received calls from people who want to be the keynote speaker, and from lawmakers who want to attend next year's graduation. Robert has received a draft of the survey compilation. The Council will receive the evaluation report by the fall meeting. Judy Struck commended the Partners program and can't imagine South Dakota without it.

Travis asked that a couple examples be added to the RFF for mini-grants. Arlene will do this and submit a draft to the Executive Committee for review before distribution.

Grady Kickul moved, seconded by Isabel Trobaugh to issue the requests for funding for Partners in Policymaking and the Mini-Grants for Education and Training. Motion carried. Robert Kean abstained.

NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Nate Anderson and Patty Bordeaux-Nelson from Parent Connection presented an overview of the Navigator program. South Dakota Parent Connection started the program with funding from the Department of Education/Office of Special Education in 2005. For more information or to see the program brochure, visit the website for SD Parent Connection – www.sdparent.org.

The Navigator program emerged as a concept to increase communication between parents and schools and help solve issues that may arise between the two. The Navigator program works towards a partnership between parents and schools. The program gets guidance from the No Child Left Behind Act and IDEA.

The role of a navigator is to aid both parties in understanding the special education processes, and help parents figure out the system early on and use it well. Navigators work with parents and schools at the same time and strive to be a neutral and objective party to help come to an agreement. There are 14 Navigators around the state. They receive requests from all over the state from various different sources and make referrals to other agencies to help the parents and schools get connected to resources that can help them.

UNITED WE RIDE/TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Shelly Pfaff, SD Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, provided the Council with an update on the United We Ride efforts that took place over the past year. South Dakota has a total of 24 transit providers across 11 communities and two urban transit

providers in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. The United We Ride federal grant provided funds that were used to survey state-level departments, community members, and transit providers; review Department of Transportation transit reports; conduct face-to-face interviews in communities; and for Shelly Pfaff to participate on the Sioux Falls transportation workgroup. Shelly discussed the results of the surveys that were received. The general consensus is that the transportation needs have come a long ways, but still need improvement in many areas. A copy of the report will be shared with Council members when it is released by the Department of Transportation.

OTHER INFORMATION

Arlene alerted the group that the DD Network & SD Parent Connection are working on a grant for a Youth Information, Training & Resource Center. They would like to pilot a self-advocacy curriculum for 7th & 8th graders as well as provide training for parents of the students and school staff. The grant is due July 23. More information will be provided after a funding decision is completed (probably late fall).

Arlene asked Isabel to share a story about her brother. Isabel's brother was born with only part of his right arm. His parents approached vocational rehabilitation for funding for him to go to college. He is currently teaching at a college in Nebraska and was asked by his supervisor to provide one-to-one tutoring for a college student from Yankton who is attending college with funding from vocational rehabilitation. Now, Isabel's brother is giving back to the system that helped him pay for college.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PLACE

The next meeting will tentatively be held Thursday, October 11, 2007 in Pierre.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.